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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

TO: The Honorable Paul D. Wolfowitz
Deputy Secretary
Department of Defense

FROM: Richard L. Armitage

SUBJECT: Offering Anthrax and Smallpox Vaccines to Certain
DOD Personnel and Family Members Associated With
Certain Posts Overseas

In response to your memorandum of February 14, the Department is pleased to be able to include certain DOD personnel and eligible family members within the scope of its voluntary anthrax and smallpox vaccination programs.

As you know, under the State Department's voluntary vaccination programs, we are offering the anthrax vaccine and smallpox vaccine at certain posts to U.S. Government employees and their family members eligible for our medical program, to Foreign Service Nationals, to personal service contractors, and to those other contractors designated by the Chief of Mission as required for mission operations. In view of your February 14 request, we will now include within this program on the same terms DOD military members and civilian employees, their family members eligible for our medical program, and those DOD contract personnel who are determined by the Chief of Mission to be required for mission operations. We understand these DOD categories to include non-U.S. as well as U.S. citizens, and to be limited to those persons co-located at our missions.

We further understand your request to mean that, pursuant to our January 17, 2003, Interagency Agreement, we are offering these vaccines to the above-identified personnel with the approval of and at the direction of DOD. As set forth in the Agreement, DOD agrees to be responsible for the actual costs of the vaccinations, including costs of indemnification arising from any claims brought by these DOD personnel and their family members against the vaccine's manufacturers.

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The Department of State's Office of Medical Services
will coordinate program details with the Assistant
Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.